

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 04590 131805Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 131807Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7855

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T PARIS 04590

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, PO, FR

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: PORTUGUESE INVOLVEMENT

1. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR IN PARIS MARTINS TOLD EMBOFF FEB. 12 THAT PORTUGAL IS "STUCK" WITH THE STATEMENT IT WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA UNLESS AND UNTIL MPLA WON CONTROL OVER CONSIDERABLE TERRITORY. HE THEN DISCUSSED THE EXTREMELY DISCREET AND OBVIOUSLY "LAST-DITCH" EFFORTS HE IS INVOLVED IN TO SAVE SOMETHING OF ANGOLA SITUATION. SPECIFICALLY, MARTINS SAYS THAT HE HAD CONVERSATION WITH ELYSEE SEVERAL DAYS AGO REGARDING POSSIBLE FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL IN ESTABLISHING A CONTACT BETWEEN SAVIMBI AND NETO WITH A VIEW TO JOINING THEIR EFFORTS. MARTINS SAYS SAVIMBI IS LIKELY BE IN PARIS IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. ACTING WITH SOARES AND ANTUNES AGREEMENT, BUT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, AMBASSADOR MARTINS THEREFORE SUGGESTED TO ELYSEE THAT PORTUGUESE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND UP SEVERAL PERSONS ABLE TO SERVE AS INTERMEDIARIES WITH NETO. ELYSEE WAS SKEPTICAL OF PROSPECTS, AS INDEED IS MARTINS, WHO ADMITS THAT LIKELIHOOD THAT ANY SUCH VENTURE COULD STILL SUCCEED IS DIMINISHING AS EACH DAY PASSES. EVEN SO MARTINS DOES NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT ELYSEE MAY STILL WISH TO ENCOURAGE OR AT LEAST

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TOLERATE THIS PROJECT.

3. MARTINS HIMSELF THINKS THAT INITIATIVES BY AFRICANS LIKELY TO HAVE SLIGHTLY BETTER CHANCE. HE ALLUDED TO BUT DID NOT ELABORATE IN THIS CONNECTION TO POSSIBLE POLITICAL INITIATIVE ON ANGOLA BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR, WHO HE SAYS SENT MESSENGER TO PARIS RECENTLY TO TRANSMIT THROUGH HIM CERTAIN IDEAS TO SOARES IN LISBON.

4. MARTINS CONCLUDES THAT ONLY REMAINING POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO ORGANIZE GUERRILLA FORCES IN ANGOLA TO MAKE IT AS HARD AND UNPLEASANT AS POSSIBLE FOR SOVIETS AND THEIR FRIENDS TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION. MARTINS THINKS THERE WOULD BE MUCH FERTILE GROUND FOR SUCH AN EFFORT LOCALLY, ALTHOUGH AFRICANS MAY WELL PREFER PEACE ON MPLA TERMS TO CONTINUING STRIFE. WHILE MARTINS, WHO IS PERSONALLY VERY CLOSE TO SOARES AND HAS ANTUNES' CONFIDENCE, DID NOT POSE QUESTION DIRECTLY, EMBOFF WAS LEFT WITH CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS AT LEAST RAISING QUESTION TO WHAT EXTENT U.S. WOULD WELCOME, ENCOURAGE OR SUPPORT SUCH CONTINUING ENTERPRISE. EMBOFF GAVE VERY CAUTIOUS REPLY, REFERRING TO WELL-KNOWN CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

5. COMMENT: MARTINS' EXPOSITION WAS UNCLEAR AND NOT EASY TO FOLLOW. WE HAVE NO BASIS ON WHICH TO JUDGE ITS ACCURACY OR IMPORTANCE.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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